

REMARKS

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed with the USPTO on 5/22/03. The examiner is requested to return the Form PTO-1449 with the references initialed to indicate review by the examiner. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed with the IDS is enclosed for the examiner's information. Also enclosed is a copy of the return post card indicating receipt by the USPTO on 6/2/2003.

Claim 8 has been converted from dependent form into independent form. This amendment does not narrow or limit the scope of the claim. In view of section 4 of the office action, claims 8-13 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7, 14-21 and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arn et al. (US 5122072). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, the claim 7 has been cancelled and its features have been added to claim 1. Claim 1 now claims that the first and second housing pieces each comprise interlock connection sections with mating projections and recesses which are intermeshed with each other. As noted on page 12, lines 16-20 of the specification, the first interlock connection section 25 and the second interlock connection section 64 matingly interlock with each other. Likewise, the third interlock connection section 66 and the fourth interlock connection section 110 matingly interlock with each other.

In Arn et al., the frame halves 66, 66' do not have interlock connection sections with mating projections and recesses which are intermeshed with each other. The frame halves 66, 66' are spaced from each other by the phase insulators 66 and rods 70. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Arn et al. that the frame halves 66, 66' each comprise interlock connection sections with mating projections and recesses which are intermeshed with each other as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-6 and 14-21 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. The features of claim 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21 particularly do not appear to be "anticipated" by Arn et al. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

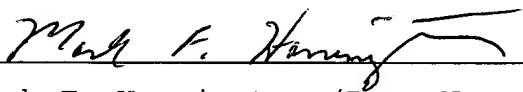
Claim 31 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 31 is a method claim which claims locating electrical bus bars against at least three housing pieces of the connection block, a middle one of the housing pieces having two of the bus bars located **against opposite respective sides of the middle housing piece**; and **intermeshing** mating projections and recesses of the middle housing piece with adjacent ones of the housing pieces to interlock the housing pieces with each other. This amendment to claim 31 broadens the claim in some respects. The features of claim 31 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Nowhere in Arn et al. is there a disclosure or suggestion of a middle housing piece with bus bars located against opposite respective sides of the middle housing piece.

Nowhere in Arn et al. is there a disclosure or suggestion of a step of intermeshing projections and recesses of a middle housing piece with adjacent housing pieces. The features of claim 31 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 31 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 32 has been amended merely to correlate with the claim language of claim 31; not for reasons of limiting or narrowing the scope of the claim. Though dependent claim 32 contains its own allowable subject matter, the claim should at least be allowable due to its dependence from allowable claim 31. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's Attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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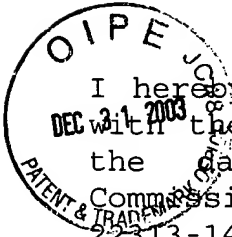
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